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AUTHORIZING FUNDS TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 1995, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1997

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JANUARY 13 (legislative day, JANUARY 10), 1995.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 53]

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, reports an original resolution to authorize expenditures during the period March 1, 1995, through February 28, 1997, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE AND NEED

This resolution is required to make funds available to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for staffing and normal committee operations.

DESCRIPTION OF AUTHORIZATION

The resolution reported favorably by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry by roll call vote of 17 aye votes and 0 no votes on January 12, 1995, includes budget proposals for 2 fiscal years from March 1, 1995, through February 28, 1996, and from March 1, 1996, through February 28, 1997.

The committee's proposed budgets are in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. The 1995 and 1996 budget proposals consist of the following items:

STAFF SALARIES

The 1995 proposed salary base adheres to the guidelines given by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in their December 7, 1994 and January 3, 1995 letters. It includes a 15 per-

cent reduction in the 1994 recurring salary base and a 2 percent increase for the twelve months from March 1995 through February 1996. An experienced staff is necessary to undertake the heavy Committee agenda. By far the greatest task facing the Committee in 1995 is management of hearings, debate, and passage of the 1995 farm bill. The 1995 agenda will also include authorization of commodity, conservation, farm credit, food safety, marketing, international trade, agricultural research, rural development, forestry, and food and nutrition programs including the nutrition provisions of welfare reform. The Committee will hold confirmation hearings for the new Secretary of Agriculture and for at least four sub-cabinet appointments at the United States Department of Agriculture.

For 1995, seven non-designated staff positions comprise \$190,633 of the proposed salary budget. This staff includes the Chief Clerk, Administrative Clerk, Hearing Clerk, Clerk, Staff Assistant, Calendar Clerk and part-time Clerk. The remaining proposed salary fund is divided between 19 majority and 11 minority staff positions. Of this amount \$921,397 is allotted to the majority and \$476,585 is allotted to the minority.

The 1996 salary baseline also follows the guidelines issued by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. The 1996 funding levels for the Non-designated, Majority and Minority staff are \$195,208, \$943,511, and \$488,023 respectively.

#### COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

The 1995 budget request adheres to the Rules Committee guidelines to include a 2.4 percent C.O.L.A. based on the proposed 1995 salary baseline for January and February 1996.

As instructed by the Rules Committee, the Committee's 1996 C.O.L.A. request is based on 2.4 percent of the proposed 1996 salary baseline for the months of January and February 1997.

#### CONSULTANTS

Senate rules require a line item specifically for consultants and, although it is uncertain that any will be required, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry has requested authorization for this funding not to exceed \$4,000. However, these funds will be made available from another category of expenditures should the need arise.

#### TRAINING OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The Senate rules also require specific funding for training of professional staff. The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry has requested authorization for this funding, not to exceed \$4,000, and it will be made available should there be any training required.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

The overall total of Administrative expenses has been reduced by 15 percent. This amount was then redistributed to more aptly reflect the anticipated costs in several categories.

## DETAILED EMPLOYEE

Since reimbursable details from other governmental agencies are not anticipated, these funds have been distributed to other administrative categories.

## TRAVEL

The budget requests for 1995 and 1996 recurring travel expenses have been further reduced in order to meet other more crucial administrative costs.

## HEARINGS

The 1995 and 1996 hearings budget requests, while lower than 1994 levels, remain nearly at the 1994 levels due to the importance and number of hearings that will be required to legislate the 1995 Farm Bill, the largest piece of legislation considered by the Committee.

## STATIONERY/SUPPLIES

This category of expenses has been decreased from the 1994 budget authorization level.

## COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Due to the demands of an increased hearing schedule, the costs for communications, equipment and services will most likely remain consistent with last year's level.

PUBLICATIONS, SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES,  
CLIPPING AND OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES

The proposed budgets include funds for subscribing to outside computerized information services in addition to subscriptions to law books, professional publications, newsletters and newspapers.

MAILING, DELIVERY OR TRANSMITTING OF MATTERS RELATING TO  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

This category consists of mailing expenses such as overnight delivery of letters, and postage for foreign mail.

## SPECIALIZED, UNIQUE, OR NONSTANDARD COMPUTER SOFTWARE

The 1995 and 1996 proposals reserve funds for computer software programs not provided by the Senate Computer Center.

## NONSTANDARD ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT

The budget level for 1995 and 1996 is 15 percent less than the 1994 authorization.

## SENATE SERVICES

This category is for such expenses as rental of video equipment from the Senate recording studio, photographic services of the Senate photography studio, and excess copier charges. The 15 percent cut in funding level is applied to this category for the 1995 and 1996 authorization.

OTHER

Due to the reported high levels of lead content in the drinking water of the Senate office buildings, the 1995 and 1996 funds for this category have been maintained in order to supply safe drinking water for the staff of the Committee.

